Rs. 10,000/- to each of those with simple injuries.

Competitiveness of Indian Railways

†519. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that working of Indian Railways is required to be proficient and efficient so that it could be compared successfully with the foreign railway services;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that freight charges in Indian Railways are 66 per cent more in comparison to Chinese Railways; and

(d) if so, the time limit fixed by the Government to make railways services at par with the international services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir, The Indian Railways is performing efficiently and compares successfully with foreign railway services.

(b) The freight charges pertaining to foreign railways including Chinese Railways are not maintained in Ministry of Railways.

(c) Does not arise.

Implementation of unigauge policy

520. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government invested huge amount in the unigauge policy during the last decade;

(b) if so, the total kilometers which have been brought under unigauge since 2002;

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether Railways have derived benefits from the policy; and

†Original notice of Question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details of additional revenue and operational advantages derived from the implementation of the unigauge policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) An amount of approximately (Gross) Rs. 9,595.34 crores has been incurred on gauge conversion in the last ten years.

(b) Since 1.4.2002, 3207 Kms. of Meter Gauge/Narrow Gauge lines have been converted into Broad Gauge.

(c) The expentiture incurred on gauge conversion since 1.4.2002 has been approximately (Gross) Rs. 4,571.89 crores.

(d) and (e) Conversion of lines have given additional revenue and operational advantage due to removal of transhipment points, opening of alternative routes, seamless operations and ease in maintenance of one type of rolling stock.

Crime in trains

521. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI VINAY KATIYAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a spurt in crimes in trains/stations including atrocities against women;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents reported during 2006 and the action taken in those cases;

(c) the measures taken to check increasing crimes in railways;

(d) whether the Railways propose to install close circuit television in compartments to check crimes there; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) There is a decrease in the total number of cases of crimes (Murder, Dacoity, Robbery, Crime against women passengers and theft of passengers' belonging) reported in trains and Railway premises during the year 2005 as compared to the previous year though the figures vary slightly under individuals heads as borne